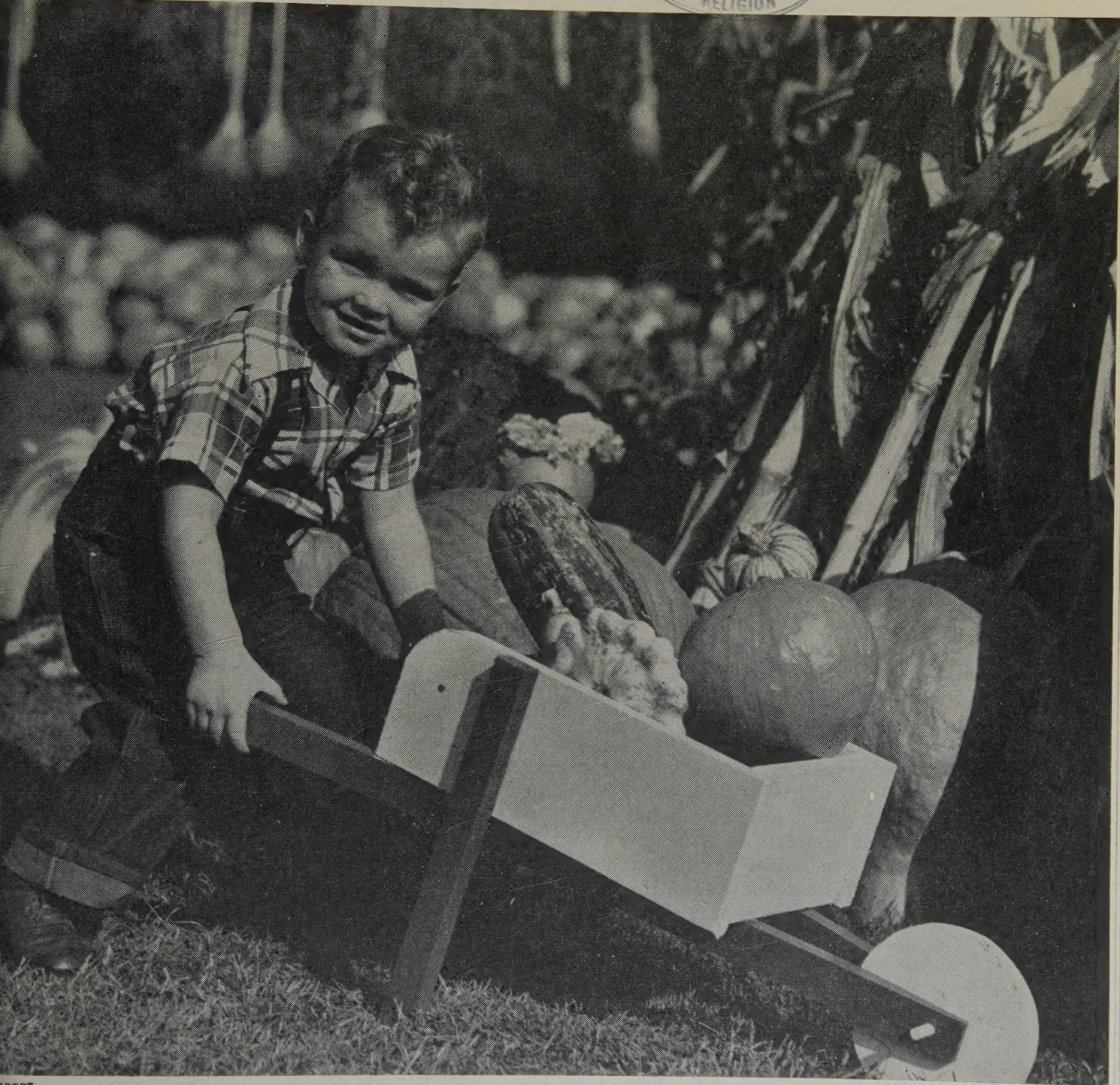


the Alliance Weekly

NOVEMBER 27, 1957



*"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation!"*

—JOACHIM NEANDER

1957 THE EDITORIAL VOICE

Guest Editorial

By MERLE FULLER, Director, Highland Lake Bible Conference

IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

We are admonished to give thanks for everything. Part of the time this verse presents no trouble, for it is perfectly human and normal to be happy over those things that fit into the scheme of our selfish wants. I can very easily be thankful for things I like.

The real issue comes when the Lord allows bitter disappointments to come into our lives. Suddenly someone or something that we hold very dear is snatched away. It is at this trying time that we are asked to give thanks.

More, we are not asked to give thanks in a general sort of way; we are asked to give thanks for the exact experience that brought sorrow. Paul must give thanks for a shipwreck; John must give thanks for being a prisoner on the Isle of Patmos; John the Baptist must thank God for the sword, and Peter must be grateful for his cross.

As the months roll on there will quickly invade your life, without warning, tears and sorrows that you never dreamed possible. You will wonder at times if the very foundations are not being moved. It will seem far too difficult to live through. Indeed you will want death instead of life. Tears flow easily and human comfort seems vain. It is at this very time that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ can be very real. By the miracle of companionship He will draw nearer than ever before. You can suddenly experience the fact that His grace is sufficient. Then you will really believe that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

When contrary winds drive our little boat far out into the sea of trouble, Satan says, "See, He doesn't love you." And in that crisis time we can either believe this lie or give thanks to our gracious Lord for the storm.

It was a wound that made Abraham; it was sorrow that made Moses; it was affliction that brought Job to himself and to surrender before the Lord. David was made the man after God's own heart by hot tears of remorse and confession.

True, I may not understand at the time of my loss how it will work for my good. It is at these moments

that I must review my life and remember that it is no longer mine but His. I surrender to Him. I have been told by the psalmist to rest in Him, to delight myself in Him, to commit my way to Him, and He will bring to pass that which is good.

The main objective of God's redemptive plan is that He might have willing subjects, that we might be conformed to the image of His dear Son. He longs to live His life through us. Now, our kind and gracious Lord is bringing death to us in all of our circumstances. Then and then only can the life of Christ be manifested in these mortal bodies. How precious of the Lord to lay His sword against the things that I hold so dear that He can further possess His own temple. How thankful we should be for this process of deathblows to self and the manifested glory of His person living within our bodies.

While David Livingstone is digging the graves for his wife and children, he must give thanks to an all-wise God who took them. Don't grieve for him long, however, for the same Lord who gave and took away opened Africa to His devoted servant. Spurgeon's companion for life was bedridden, but out of this personal sorrow came the glow of life to thousands from the broken heart of this prince of preachers.

Have you allowed Satan to inject bitterness into your heart, or have you honestly given thanks for *everything*? Satan wants you to love, protect and pamper yourself. Your loving Lord wants to put His sword against it. He can be glorified. Give Him praise and thanksgiving always.

O LORD OF HEAVEN, AND EARTH, AND SEA

O Lord of heaven, and earth, and sea,
To Thee all praise and glory be;
How shall we show our love to Thee,
Who givest all?

The golden sunshine, vernal air,
Sweet flowers and fruits Thy love declare,
Where harvests ripen, Thou art there,
Who givest all!

For peaceful homes, and healthful days,
For all the blessing earth displays,
We owe Thee thankfulness and praise,
Who givest all!

For souls redeemed, for sins forgiven,
For means of grace and hopes of heaven,
O Lord, what can to Thee be given,
Who givest all?

—BISHOP CHRISTOPHER WORDSWORTH

The Campaign is over! All subscriptions to THE ALLIANCE WITNESS must be postmarked today (November 2) to be credited in the 1957 Subscription Campaign.



ATKESON - A. DEVANEY

"There shall be one fold and one shepherd . . ."

The Feast of Holy Gladness

By A. B. SIMPSON

THE Feast of Tabernacles was the most beautiful and, in some respects, the most impressive of all the feasts of God's ancient people.

This feast was peculiar in the fact that they gathered together and built little arbors constructed of the branches of trees, including, as Jeremiah says, the pine, the olive, the myrtle and the palm. They built rustic houses on the hillsides or on the flat roofs of their homes, and there they dwelt for seven days.

On the last day of the feast it was customary to form a little circle of fountains and to bring vessels of water from the pool of Siloam, which was poured out on the altar as an offering. As the streams filled the court, the people joined in a refrain that strongly suggests the doctrine of the Trinity:

*"O Thou great Creator, Hosanna!
O Thou great Redeemer, Hosanna!
O Thou great Keeper, Hosanna!"*

Surely it was a prayer to the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, though they did not know it, "Hosanna" meaning "God have mercy on us." Sometimes the twelfth chapter of Isaiah was chanted: "Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation . . ."

THE WATER OF LIFE

It was while this rite was being performed, the waters pouring down the court and the people chanting their hosannas, that a strange figure "in the last day, that great day of the feast," stood erect with majestic mien in the midst of the mighty throng and, lifting His hand to heaven, cried, "If any man thirst, let

him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." So marvelous was the eloquence, so striking the figure and so suitable the action to the word that the very officers who came to arrest Him stood transfixed and spellbound before Him and went back to tell the priest and Pharisees who had sent them, when asked why they did not bring Him, "Never man spake like this man."

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Still later on this last day there was a grand illumination in the Court of the Women. Lamps were hung all around and the festival closed in a glorious galaxy of light. The same majestic figure stepped forth exclaiming, "I am the light of

the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

This feast therefore has a very deep interlinking with the profoundest spiritual truths and the most interesting scenes in the history of our Lord's own ministry.

Among the many lessons which the Feast of Tabernacles teaches us, the lesson of holy gladness is outstanding. This feast was God's emphatic call to His people to rejoice in Him. "When ye have gathered in the fruit of the land . . . ye shall rejoice before the Lord your God seven days." God is the blessed One and He wants the sacrifice of joy from all who worship and love Him.

Again, when for the first time after centuries the little church in Jerusalem under the leadership of Nehemiah was groping its way back to the ancient worship and the true God, we find the same message: "This day is holy unto the Lord your God; mourn not, nor weep." They are keeping the Feast of Tabernacles that day for the first time in decades, and the command is, "This day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

THE JOY OF THE LORD

The same lessons come to us in Christ's words, for He tells us of a joy so full that it bursts its barriers

like living waters and overflows. Have you learned the message of joy? Has Jesus saved you not only from your sin and your sickness, but from your misery, from your low spirits, from your complaining, from your fretting and from your worrying? Has He shown you that it is your highest ministry to Him to "rejoice evermore" and "in every thing give thanks"?

"Are you always happy?" someone asked a dear old lady. "I won't be unhappy," she said. Surely God delighted in that dear old woman. Let us radiate like a little glow-worm even if we cannot shine like a star.

Yes, we are to rejoice even in trouble. The story is told of Matthew Henry who one night on a lonely country road was robbed by four men. Arriving home, he wrote in his diary: "Praise the Lord! I have been robbed tonight of two crowns by four footpads. I thank the Lord I have gone up and down these roads for forty years and have never been robbed before. I thank the Lord I have been saved from the love of money, which has made them risk their lives and their souls. I thank the Lord I am happy about it. I would rather have the happiness than have my two crowns back again."

It is one of Satan's devices to rob us of the joy of the Lord by tripping us with the small things of life. The beginning of Israel's backsliding and their loss of Canaan was repining. They "murmured." It is unwholesome and even perilous ever to get depressed and discouraged, to lose your victory and your praise.

The captain of one of our sailing ships said that once on his way to the West Indies a cyclone came up. He saw a ship go down not half a mile away, but his ship sailed through calm, unruffled waters. The reason was that they were in the center of the cyclone.

There is a place in God where we can get into the center and can say, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. . . . God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved. . . . Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

O God, My Strength and Fortitude

*O God, my strength and fortitude,
Of force I must love Thee;
Thou art my castle and defense
In my necessity;*

*My God, my Rock, in whom I trust
The worker of my wealth,
My refuge, buckler, and my shield
The horn of all my health.*

*I, when beset with pain and grief,
Did pray to God for grace,
And He forthwith did hear my plea
Out of His holy place.*

*Unspotted are the ways of God,
His Word is purely tried;
He is a sure defense to such
As in His faith abide.*

—THOMAS STERNHOLD,
from Psalm 111



though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof."

There is a peace and safety in the heart of God. God does not promise us exemption from trouble, but He does promise us that it will be the very test of His love and the opportunity of our best blessings. He said of the man whose hope is in the Lord that he "shall not see wither, heat cometh." Will you let the Lord beloved, lay upon you the new commandment just now, "Rejoice in the Lord alway"?

THE HARVEST

The Feast of Tabernacles is as the picture of the harvest of the dispensation. The Passover tells of Calvary and the cross of Jesus. Pentecost tells of the descent of the Holy Ghost. The Feast of Trumpets tells of the proclamation of the gospel to all the nations. The Feast of Tabernacles tells of the harvest of the age, the ingathering of the fall fruitage, the coming of the blessed Lord, the rejoicing time when we shall gather together in the hills of God, and we shall bring the palm branches of finished victory, the myrtle that we take from our cemeteries and the evergreen pines that tell of everlasting joy. At the Lord will be there, for the seventh chapter of Revelation is just a Feast of Tabernacles. Unto that day may He seal us, keep us, bless us, bless us and make us a blessing for Jesus' sake.

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The Master Secrets of Prayer

III. How to Intercede

By CAMERON V. THOMPSON

WE have now learned to feed on the Bread of God by reading the Book, to adore God for what He is, to thank Him for what He has done, to confess to Him what we are, to plead our helplessness and weakness out before Him, and to take hold on His strength and willingness. We are now ready for supplication and intercession.

Seldom do we hear a Bible teacher on the radio pray for another Bible teacher. Each sheep bleats within its own fold. Like safety matches, they strike only on our own boxes. But Paul and Moses could wish themselves cut off that others might be saved (see Rom. 9:1-3; Ex. 32:1-6). Dry and wilted flowers lift their heads when rain comes. So do we, tired and discouraged saints when someone prays.

Consider Him who ever liveth to make intercession—for us, thank God! The prayers of Paul included the whole church, without boundary of sect or prejudice or locality or even time. See the example of our Lord in John 17, and hear Him talking with one who was to be tested by Satan: "But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted [when thou shalt turn back to me], strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:32).

When we have glorified His name through asking that His will be done in the lives of our friends and enemies, we can then pray, "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matt. 6:11). When we have spread our helplessness and needs of others before God, we can well spread before Him our own needs. God is honored in our asking. God delights to have His children ask Him for every possible need, even though He knows what we need before we

petition Him. Our petitions may be as broad as the promises of God, as deep as the treasures of God.

Though men may seek to build fences around the words "whatsoever" and "anything," declaring that they do not mean this and that, *these words are still in the Book*. Rejoice if your needs are great, if they are ever mounting, if they are incredible, if they are impossible! The very trials God puts you through are to enlarge your heart so that He can bless you the more.

Can your needs exceed those of the poor widow (2 Kings 4:1-7)? She was ordered not only to bring her own vessels before the Lord but to borrow "not a few." All were filled with oil; and it was not the oil which gave out but the vessels! You can pray and you can receive in the very same hour.

If you want to know what immense variety of things are available to you, trace the word "receive" in the New Testament. God has surprises for you in this search. When you read of answers that others received, use them as pleas for your friends and yourself. God has an answer for the barren womb, the empty purse, the unrequited love, the quenched desire, the unchanged situation and the unbreakable habit. He will give you just what you ask for, something better or something more. "And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, *that will I do*" (John 14:13). "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above" (James 1:17). James says that war is caused



Men may spurn our appeals, reject our message, oppose our arguments, despise our person—but they are helpless against our prayers.—J. SIDLOW BAXTER.

by failure to pray (James 4:2).

Surely heaven is overcrowded with answers to prayer for which no one has ever asked. Hundreds of years are covered in Bible history without the record of a single petition. Once God interrupted a long list of names (He can scarcely stop when He lists the names of those He loves) because of an astonishing thunderbolt of prayer which hurled up against the battlements of heaven (1 Chron. 4:9, 10): "And Jabez [“Sorrow”] was more honourable than his brethren [because he prayed]: . . . and Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!"

One might think that here God would say, "Be careful, Jabez, you have asked too much!" But no such remark by God is ever recorded in the Bible. It does say: "And God granted him that which he requested." Does this arouse your soul and spirit to try and see what it means to be blessed indeed by God? Such prayers as this cascade in golden blessings upon the heads of our descendants. It would seem that this one cry caused God to seize the levers of heaven and put Jabez under the central spout of his favor and almost to drown him with accumulated blessings.

Memorize this promise and pray it often: "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Prayer is not a one-way conversation. As we allow God to speak to us when we pore over His Word, so we take exquisite delight in His

speaking to us after we have prayed. How often we knock and then run away before He opens the door. How many have leaped to their feet after asking, not waiting for His word, just as God was about to enable them to receive. What whispered love we miss when we do not know the quietness of communion. On stilled and quieted hearts does the dew of His blessing descend. When all the voices of this world and of self are stilled we discover that *Christ liveth in us*.

"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" (Isa. 40:31). Search the Scriptures to see what things come to those who wait! Say with Samuel, "Speak; for thy servant heareth" (1 Sam. 3:10).

Then rise to look for His answers, to note the first little clouds of ap-

proaching showers of blessing (1 Kings 18:44). Rise to marvel how He answers from a direction of which we had not thought, at the variety of His methods and the infinitude of His resources. We desire to be among those who are at the wharf when galleons come over the horizons of prayer, laden with gold of Ophir. We watch for that instant when a billion prayers will be answered, when the shout of encouragement will take us all to be with Him (1 Thess. 4:16). If we watched lest we be distracted during our season of prayer, we now watch with eager hope to see how our Lord will manage for our friends and for ourselves.

Let us record our prayers on paper and mark well the answers, for many never understand that the blessings they have are the answers to their own prayers! And most of all, we watch lest communion should be broken with Him. ♦ ♦ ♦

Orderly Files Deserve an Index

When loose copies of magazines accumulate good housekeeping demands that some disposal be made of them. Unless a subscriber has clipped the articles to which he would like to refer, they generally are lost in the stack.

Some prudent subscribers have in the past made a practice of ordering bound copies of *THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY*. This, of course, is the neatest way to keep them. Their current issues, then, they passed on to friends or sent them in packets to the free literature department on one of the mission fields.

Now that the magazine is to appear in the new and improved format with the title "*The Alliance Witness*," this means of keeping copies will be helpful to many. To secure a bound volume of *THE ALLIANCE WITNESS* it is necessary to notify Christian Publications, Inc., Third and Reily Streets, Harrisburg, Pa., at least one year in advance. During the ensuing year a copy of each issue will be reserved, and by March of the year following (1959) a set of accumulated copies will be trimmed and bound into a cloth-

covered book that is a handsome addition to anyone's library. This service is offered to subscribers at cost. One volume is \$7.00.

It is also possible to keep a file in a loose-leaf binder. Now that the magazine is to be published on alternate weeks, the copies for one year will comfortably fill a one-and-a-half-inch three-ring binder. This is bulkier than the bound volume but it keeps the magazines in shape for ready reference during the year.

Anyone who has leafed through *WEEKLYS* of a past year has been impressed with the interest they hold for him. Surprisingly enough, some articles and editorials he missed when an issue first came are well worth stopping to read. Often he discovers that some item he has already read is more refreshing than when he scanned it hurriedly because he was busy at the time it first arrived. Authors he did not know then he has met since, or he has become familiar with their names in other connections; their writings seem the richer for this knowledge. A series of articles has added impact when read consecutively at one

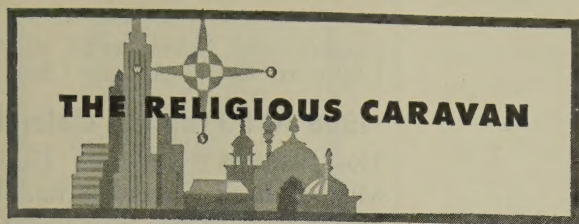
sitting. What precious memories stirred by the missionary reports, pictures and accounts from the field. Some prayer requests can be traced as they appeared at intervals until a final report is published telling of the victorious answer. Through this perspective gained in this manner the reader's missionary vision requires a new dimension.

The chief reason, however, for filing copies of *THE ALLIANCE WITNESS* is not only to browse through them, as pleasant as that is, but to have them ready for reference or research. That requires an index. It is possible for each person to make his own index at the end of the year but that is a time-consuming task. Since a member of our staff expertly prepares an index each year and a limited number of these are duplicated for staff and department members, a subscriber who wishes to have one may order it by writing to the editorial offices at 260 West 44th Street, New York 36, N. Y., enclosing \$1.00. Orders for the index should be sent in before February 15 of the year which succeeds the one for which the index has been kept. Enough extra copies will be made to cover these orders.

In the Philippines bound copies of *THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY* are extremely popular with the office workers and other readers. Copies sent to the Free Literature Department, P. O. Box 127, Zamboanga City, Philippines, are sorted into complete volumes and turned over to The Alliance Press for binding. At the national church conference last year delegates purchased more than one hundred and fifty bound copies. That is the value the work in the Philippine Islands place upon having orderly files of *THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY*.

Subscribers who wish to order bound volumes of *THE ALLIANCE WITNESS* for 1958 should write to Christian Publications, Third and Reily Streets, Harrisburg, Pa., before December 31, 1957. Accompanying checks or money orders may be made out to *THE ALLIANCE WITNESS*.

Copies of *THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY* Index for 1957 should be ordered before February 15, 1958, from *THE ALLIANCE WITNESS*, 260 West 44th Street, New York 36, N. Y. ♦ ♦



DAVID R. ENLOW, Editor

AT HOME

New York Protestant Council sets campaign: An expanded program of evangelism calling for a budget of nearly \$1,000,000 and a three-month Crusade for Church Attendance beginning in January were approved by the General Assembly of the Protestant Council of the City of New York. The "go-to-church" drive to be conducted by Protestant churches throughout the metropolitan area is part of a follow-up to the recent Billy Graham New York Crusade.

Baptists announce plans for six-year advance: A watch night prayer service in some 75,000 churches in North America on New Year's Eve, 1957, will open the six-year Baptist Jubilee Advance program. The Jubilee Advance committee, meeting in New York, said seven major Baptist bodies in the United States and Canada, representing some 18,000,000 Baptists, will participate in the evangelism effort.

Post Office to issue religious liberty stamp: A commemorative three-cent stamp honoring religious freedom will be issued at Flushing, N. Y., on December 27, Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield announced. The occasion will be the three hundredth anniversary of the Flushing Remonstrance, believed to be the first declaration of religious liberty by ordinary citizens in American history.

BROAD

Shops warn parents against Communist rites: Protestant parents were warned by the Evangelical bishops of the Soviet Zone not to permit their children to take part in Communist youth dedication ceremonies. The ceremonies are an atheistic counterpart of Christian confirmation and first communion devised by East German Communists to wean children away from religion, they said.

Joint evangelistic campaign in New Zealand: Overflow attendances were reported at a two-week evangelistic campaign in Christchurch, N. Z., conducted jointly by 10 churches of ten Protestant denominations. The campaign was inaugurated by a demonstration in Cathedral Square in the center of the city attended by 10,000 people. It was said to be the biggest gathering of its kind in the city's history. One of the principal speakers was Miss A. L. Fransz, from Indonesia.

Reports German church dying in Polish occupied areas: The German Evangelical Church in the Polish-occupied parts of East Germany, once one of the most prosperous in Germany, has become a "dying" body with only 100,000 left of its former 3,000,000 members. Prof. Harald Kruska, president of the Kirchendienst Ost (Church Service East), made this report at Hamelin, Germany, at a rally of Protestants from the occupied area now living in West Germany.

Australia to issue Christmas stamp: The Commonwealth of Australia announced it will issue a special commemorative stamp December 1 to urge a more religious observance of Christmas. Bearing the simple inscription "Christmas 1957," the stamp depicts a small child in a nightgown kneeling in prayer before the Star of Bethlehem. It is the first such stamp in Australia's history.

PEOPLE

Free Methodists elect Cryderman: Rev. Dale Cryderman has been elected by the Board of Administration of the Free Methodist Church to succeed Dr. Ernest Keasling as General Superintendent of Free Methodist Youth. Mr. Cryderman is presently serving his second year as superintendent of the Michigan Conference of the Free Methodist Church, with an outstanding record of accomplishment already to his credit in this ministry.

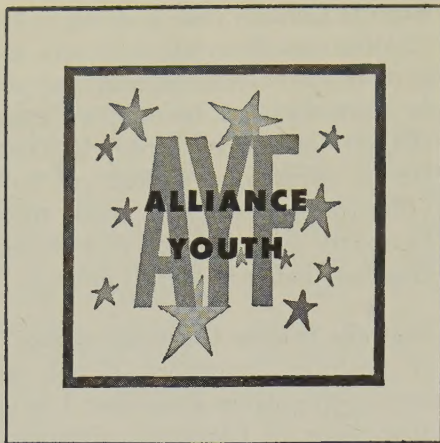
Baptist joint committee names associate director: Rev. W. Barry Garrett, Jr., editor of the *Baptist Beacon*, Phoenix, Ariz., was named associate director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs in Washington, D. C. Dr. C. Emanuel Carlson, director, said his primary responsibility in the newly-created post will be to expand the committee's information services. The committee represents six major Baptist conventions on public affairs matters.

PEOPLE SAY

Says Asia needs new type of missionary: An Indian Lutheran bishop said in New York that Asia needs a new type of missionary who is a "friend, philosopher and guide" to the younger churches, instead of a "superintendent, director or boss." Bishop Rajah B. Manikam, of Tranquebar, said "the day has now dawned for the missionary who is willing to get behind the cart and push it along rather than pull it from the front."

EDUCATION

Wisconsin University offers new religion course: A new course on the history of religions is available to University of Wisconsin students. It was added to the history curriculum at the recommendation of a student-faculty committee. Prof. Eugene Boardman, who planned the course, said "no person who calls himself an educated person can afford to be without at least an elementary acquaintance with the major religions of the world."



WELDON B. BLACKFORD, Editor

An AYFer's Thanksgiving Soliloquy

By JANIS KEYS

What does Thanksgiving mean to me? It is a command in God's Word to "be thankful unto him" (Psa. 100: 4), and Jesus said, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14: 15).

If one of His commands is to be thankful I want to show my love to Him by maintaining a thankful spirit. When I think about the price the Lord Jesus paid for my redemption and all the blessings He has bestowed upon me since I have accepted His salvation, how can I help but be thankful to Him? The trouble is that I do not take time to think on these things, but go through a busy life taking all for granted.

If one is to be thankful at all times he must believe in the sovereignty of God. With this belief solidly behind all our circumstances we will be thankful for everything which God sees fit to bring to us. If we sincerely seek His will, we will be sure He has ordered our ways and trust Him that He will show the "way to escape" out of temptations, that He will "direct our paths" into His perfect plan for our life. Therefore, we can "rejoice evermore" and always be thankful.

Thanksgiving is the one holiday which has not been greatly commercialized. Yet even here Satan has succeeded in getting the merchants to start us on Christmas buying before we celebrate Thanksgiving Day, thus eclipsing the significance of this day. The enemy of God would also like to make Chris-

tians forget the reason our country sets aside a day for giving praise to God. We are more likely to put the emphasis on a family get-together and a turkey-and-all-the-fixings dinner than to rejoice in God's shower of blessings on us.

Holidays such as this should cause us to think of the great truths of the Bible. Christmas makes us think of the birth of the Lord Jesus; Good Friday and Easter remind us of His death and resurrection for us; Thanksgiving should bring us to the place of counting our many blessings, naming them one by one.

If we leave God out of Thanksgiving we have no special day at all. For the core and true meaning of Thanksgiving Day is to give thanks to the One who is alone worthy of all our praise, God.

We Americans should be especially thankful that our forefathers were so God-conscious as to set aside a day in which to thank God for His blessings. Our country was founded on godly principles and this may be the reason it has stood so strongly against the storms of adversity. When our lives are founded on such principles we will carry the spirit of Thanksgiving Day into every day of the year.

A Christian manifesting a joyful, thankful spirit is winsome, and this positive Christianity will be more apt to bring others to Christ than a life lacking praise. *Dear God, make me a thankful Christian.*

The Bulletin Board

Youth Rally

COWELL, ARK. November 29, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 P. M. Cowell Alliance Church.

1958 AYF Program Calendar

The 1958 AYF Program Calendar will be off the press the middle of November. Every Alliance Youth Fellowship will want to have a copy of this beautiful, new, two-color poster-type calendar measuring by 34 inches.

A monthly program emphasis has been prayerfully outlined for the local AYF. The emphasis for each month is imprinted in the headline of the month.

Special releases are being prepared to help the local AYF carry out the program as indicated on the calendar. These releases will be made available periodically to all the churches through the District Youth Offices. The purpose of this monthly emphasis is to provide a spiritual guide for and supplement to the monthly program in the local AYF. The emphasis program can be used as part of, in addition to, the monthly program in the local AYF.

This is a calendar on which local and district programs and activities may be posted. This year's calendar has been enlarged, thus making it easier for the local AYF to write their future programs and activities. Here's a real means of keeping your AYF and church posted on your AYF activities.

Each AYF officer should use the calendar at home. It will help serve as a good reminder to your officers of the monthly AYF programs and activities.

Order your Program Calendar today. Send fifty cents for each calendar to Christian Publications, Inc., Third and Reilly Streets, Harrisburg, Pa.

AYF Guide

Bible reading plan for school days

DECEMBER 2-6

Monday .. Genesis 11:1-9, 27-32
Tuesday Psalm 10
Wednesday Matthew 2:1-12
Thursday Psalm 57
Friday Acts 7:1-20



The Eleventh Couple

By REV. J. A. NICHOLSON, Congo

In September we were counting on having only ten families in Bible school. The story of our enrolling the eleventh couple is worth relating to the praise of the Lord.

A few days after school had begun a young fellow appeared whom I recognized as one who had been baptized on the station only a few months before. He earnestly requested permission to enter Bible school. Unfortunately the pastor was away just then on an itineration of the churches.

I consulted with the other "faculty" member, Abel Zau, to get his opinion. He hesitated to give his consent as there was no precedent. The rule was that only those who had proved themselves as catechists over a sufficient period of time could enter Bible school. And this fellow had not even had this preparation. If an exception were to be made, we felt the pastor, Alfeo Buza, must decide.

Surprisingly, when we explained the problem to him, the young fellow expressed his readiness to go to the pastor—one hundred kilometers away. He went by bike and within a number of days returned with the pastor's answer. The pastor replied that we should feel free to take him on the premise that those who hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled. Also, he indicated the town where he should teach during his free time. Therefore, we took him in. Since then the story of his salvation, as submitted by himself for printing, has appeared in the periodical, *Minsamu*

Miayenge. Translated it reads as follows:

"When I was a lad my father used to say to me: 'When you grow up and go to earn money, do not forsake the living God. If you forsake God, then He will forsake you and remove His hand from off you.' In the course of time I left my father's house (he is the catechist at Mboca) and came, in good health, to the French Congo. I learned a good trade, that of photography. I earned good money and was happy all the time. Although I received help and blessing in my work, I no longer thought about the counsel that my father had given me. I forsook God and entered into the paths of sin. The words written in James 1:15 were fulfilled in me: 'And sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.' But how sad! I caused sin to ripen in me all the more, for I was indeed in the very fear of death.

"In February of 1954 I became sick. I bought medicine at the pharmacy. I entered the dispensary and then the hospital at Fourastie and then went to Pointe-Noire, but I kept getting worse. I tried buying stronger medicine, but I saw no difference. How sad! I sought healing also through sinful ways which are not fitting. As I only got worse, I went from one hospital to another, but all to no avail. In buying medicines and paying for injections I wasted 28,805 francs. Oh, what sorrow!

"In my sorrow I began to seek

A little Congo lassie



comfort through reading my Bible at home. In Psalm 37:5 I came across these words: 'Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him.' With a start words that my father had kept telling me came back to me: 'Surrender your heart to the Lord.' It was as though I had been awakened. As a prodigal son I then went to the pastor and teachers, told them of my sickness both of soul and body, and begged for mercy thus: 'May God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit forgive me, for I am a sinner.' The pastor assured me that I was right in seeking the Lord and exhorted me to surrender my heart to Him fully. They then prayed for me. And by His grace the Lord Jesus performed a miracle in me—I was healed! Hallelujah, may God be praised! Is it not reason for rejoicing? I was later baptized at Mboca in June of 1956."

We are happy to report that André Conga, this young man, has proved himself thus far to be our brightest and most earnest student. May the Lord's will be wrought out in his life.

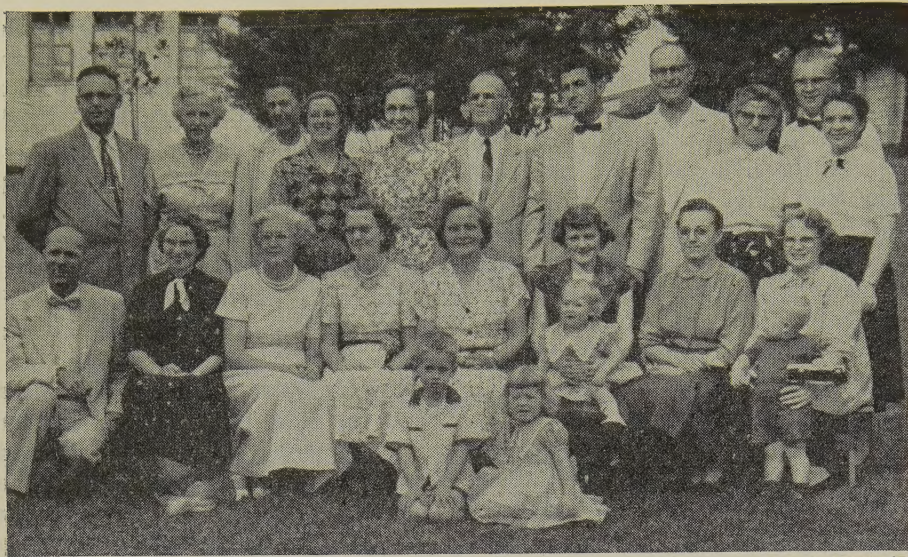
When God Transforms

By STELLA M. RATZLOFF, Thailand

Men want the strong, the successful. God takes the weak, the "worm" (Isa. 41:14, 15), and with His Spirit makes it a strong "threshing instrument with teeth."

The "worm" in Thailand could very well be those with leprosy, who are despised and often forsaken even by their relatives. When the missionary began to care for their physical need by giving them medicine and with it the gospel of love, his faith didn't foresee the results which would take place. Since then many have found in Christianity a hope not only for their present distress but for the hereafter as well. Today we are beginning to see how God has taken the "worm" and is making of it an instrument with teeth which is helping to break down the wall of Buddhism in this land.

Here is one example from Korat Province. What started out to be three clinics where leprous people could receive medicine has turned out to be three churches. These churches are making real spiritual progress and increasing in numbers



Missionaries of the Colombia Mission

R. M. SEARING, JR.

continually. Recently about thirty-five persons prayed at two of the churches within ten days. The Hua Dong Keng church had five baptized members, but just a few weeks ago twenty-five more were baptized.

These new Christians have that forward look of faith and are not satisfied to stay just within the boundaries of their own community. Some are already holding regular services in another village and people are turning to the Lord. In fact, the Buddhist priest was getting perturbed because there were so many new "Jesus followers" that he wasn't getting enough to eat. The priest complained to the village chief and together they are making things as difficult as they can for the Christians.

Another church, at Huay Ra Hat, also has the vision to help find the other lost sheep. They have taken the oversight of a new group at Nong Kaam. Every week two or three people from the Huay Ra Hat church go eleven miles to Nong Kaam for a week-end ministry in this village. The Lord is blessing their efforts. One week seven persons prayed in the name of Christ; on another visit five prayed, then three. How many more new babes in Christ there are since then we do not know.

The Huay Ra Hat church pays the train fares and also gives their "missionaries" a food subsidy. Eleven miles in and eleven miles out—it is the burden to see men and women

come to Christ which prompts this action. This is the work of the Lord. It started by helping the leprous folks, but today the despised "worms" are being instruments with teeth and most of the new Christians are those who do not have the disease.

The evangelistic work among the leprous is only one tool among a multitude of excellent tools the Lord has given us and which you have made possible through your gifts. Whatever tool you have helped provide, be it the tool of radio, the tool of training Bible school students, the tool of literature or still another tool, it becomes effective in our hands only as the Holy Spirit carries forth His promise that "I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument having teeth."

Bringing in the Tithes

By MARY ELLEN GERBER, *Gabon*

A year ago the national church leaders took a step of faith in working toward complete self-support, and the Lord blessed with an abundant peanut harvest during the year. On Easter Sunday the women (who do the field work) brought peanuts in baskets and poured their offerings into large drums at the front of the church, while the men brought gifts of money. The peanuts were later sold and the money deposited in the "Lord's tin can." Recently someone brought a live goat as an offering. Pray that the idea will become contagious.

Missionary Joys Outweigh the Trials

An unusual feature of the missionary conference in Colombia this year was the missionary message by Rev. Walter Arnold, of Freetown, West Africa. Rev. Lee Tennes had brought with him a tape recording of Mr. Arnold's message to the General Council of 1956, held in Omaha, Nebraska. Mrs. Betty Knopp, commenting upon the effect of the message, wrote, "It was just as fresh as the moment it was given and the words, 'White man, are you the man of God?' will ever ring in our hearts. By them we are reminded of the sacred task which is ours as missionaries to carry the Bread of Life to the multitudes who are dying in their sins without it."

Among the items of business were these: In recognition of the important position the wives of pastors occupy in relation to the churches a spiritual retreat for them is to be instituted. Steps were taken also to prepare for a field-wide victorious life conference within the year.

As a result of conference action there is to be a new advance in the distribution of evangelical literature. Translation work is to include several more books by A. B. Simpson. These are to be added to those already being published.

More workers are needed in every part of the field. However, so great is the need in the localities where missionaries already reside that many a couple could be transferred to another post. Therefore, all the allocations were the same as before except in the case of Miss Mary Keirath who offered to work in the isolated region of Punto Mulato along the coast. Many new converts live there and they must be instructed in the Word of God. In this difficult and lonely post she will stand particularly in need of prayer.

The band of nineteen missionaries gathered in the Bible school buildings at Armenia for five days, September 9 to 13, felt small, indeed, as compared to the great task yet to be done. However, each one spoke in glowing terms of the blessing of God upon the work during the past year and agreed that the joys of missionary service far outweigh the trials.

India

Using nationalism to the seeming detriment of the cause of Christ is the enemy of both the church and the Mission. Pray for your missionaries, that this enemy will not ensnare their lives or ministry. It is not too much to ask the Lord to give the church victory over these present circumstances.

Congo

Pray that in the Maduda church, presently without a pastor, there will be a real working of the Spirit. Also pray for the Kwimba and Vungu areas where there is strong opposition from the Roman Catholic Church. . . . There is a need for consecrated nurses in the hospital. Pray for this need.

Gabon

Pray for the establishment of the Word in the hearts of the believers in the young Koula Moutou church. There is special need for the discernment of the Holy Spirit. . . . Pray that the young men in the Koula Moutou region may feel the urgency of taking the Word to their own people and will respond to the call of God to enter Bible school. . . . There is an urgent need for an African leader for this church. Pray for Ibanda Jean, who has just completed one year of Bible school and who has potentialities but who also has a complex personality which needs the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. . . . Pray for revival.

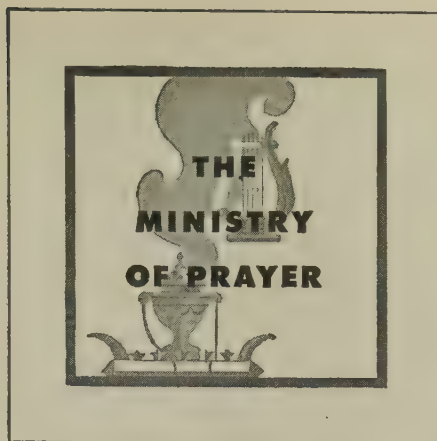
Viet Nam

Praise God that Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stebbins have been able to open a new station at Tuy Hoa. This is in the area occupied by Viet Minh forces during the nine years of war and has been open to the preaching of the gospel for only two years. This new station, halfway between Quinhon and Nha-rang, has a population of nearly a half-million people (ALLIANCE WEEKLY, September 25, 1957). . . . Rev. and Mrs. Harold Dutton are opening a new station at Quang Ngai and will work in this province up to Bong Son. This area, like that of Tuy Hoa, has just been opened to the gospel after long years of war. Pray for these missionaries. . . . We plan to send ten new couples to Viet Nam in 1958. Pray that the Lord will direct in sending workers of His choice and provide the funds necessary for this advance. These couples are urgently needed if the country is to be fully occupied for Christ. . . . Mr. Ngan (August 28, 1957) has died. Pray that his family will find the consolations of the Lord sufficient.

Laos

Mr. Saly, president of the Gospel Church of North Laos, is now itinerating in the north, visiting the churches and workers. This visit is timely and needful. Pray for a physical quickening and an endowment of wisdom and understanding to deal with the problems he will find.

NOVEMBER 27, 1957



Thailand

The entire area of Northeast Thailand has suffered this year through lack of rain. Poor economic conditions in this most barren part of Thailand are making its eight million people most discontented. Numerous opposition political parties have sprung up, many with Communist sympathies. The last eighteen months have seen a gradual but tremendous change in the political scene, and the majority of the newspapers are extremely anti-American. This situation needs much prayer if this land is to remain open to the gospel. . . . Pray for three young men from the Agricultural Teachers' College in Surin Province who profess to believe in Christ, two of them through the Bible Correspondence School. Forty other students at the same school have enrolled in the correspondence course. Pray for a mighty work of God as these men study His Word. This college serves the whole of Thailand. Pray also for Rev. and Mrs. John Ellison, missionaries in Surin, as they have opportunity to instruct those interested in the way of righteousness.

Colombia

Praise God for a very fruitful convention among the Guambiano Indians, some of whom had lost out with God. . . . Pray for Don Efraím Días who, after study in the States, is holding evangelistic campaigns in different parts of the field. Pray concerning his future labors for the Lord. . . . Pray for the teachers and students in the Armenia Bible Institute which opens this month. Pray, too, for a short term Bible school to be held for young Indian men in Silvia.

Chile

Pray for the city-wide campaign in Santiago, Chile's capital, being conducted by Dr. Oswald J. Smith November 19-December 1. . . . The wives of two Chilean pastors, Señora Luisa de Carcamo and Señora Maria de Valdebenito (a capable young lady graduate of our Bible institute), are suffering from nervous disorders of a rather serious nature. Pray that they will be healed.

Peru

The full term Bible institute closed the last of October. The majority of the students are going out into practical work. Pray that they may "be steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." . . . Rev. John Swift continues to suffer a throat ailment (June 26 and July 31, 1957). . . . Dr. Oswald J. Smith will be visiting Lima from December 3 to 8. Most of the evangelical churches and missions in Lima are uniting for a campaign at that time. All desire God to send a mighty moving of the Holy Spirit on this city of over a million people.

Philippines

A city-wide evangelistic campaign is to be conducted in Davao City in January. Various Protestant groups are cooperating, and morning prayer meetings are being held. Rev. David Morken is to be the speaker. Rev. F. Dumarán, Alliance field evangelist, will interpret the messages into Cebuano. Pray that there will be spiritual unity among the cooperating churches and that God will grant the city a great spiritual awakening with many genuine conversions. . . . In the mountains out from Ozamis City dwell unevangelized pagan Subanuns. Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Dulaca have recently located in this strategic center and are attempting to contact these needy people. Pray that God will enable them to effectively reach these benighted pagans. Mrs. Dulaca is herself a Subanun and thus they are naturally fitted for this task.

Indonesia

A Bible conference for pastors and congregations in Bali is scheduled for late November. It will be the first of its kind ever held in Bali. Balinese Christians are socially ostracized when they become Christians. Pray that their assembling together from all over Bali will prove a rich blessing and an encouragement to them. . . . Pray for the thousands of Christians on the island of Alor, that they will remain true to their love for the truth of God's Word. Pressure is being brought to bear upon them by those still in the centuries-old established church from which these thousands have broken away. Pray also that they will not succumb to the blandishments of heretical groups who are looking on the situation as an opportunity for invasion.

New Guinea

Since the Continuation School was moved from Obano to Tigi, the enemy has been bringing confusion among the students. Gossip and the spirit of fatalism keep things stirred up. There is a feeling among some that, since the first school was destroyed, this also will be. These stories have seriously disturbed the Indonesian workers at Tigi; this is understandable as the Paksoals and Rumasebs lost their children in the last uprising. Pray that their fear will be cast out, that real peace will settle down upon the entire area.



CLIFFORD E. HARROD, Reporter

News reports may be sent direct to Rev. C. E. Harrod, The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, East and Lane Streets, Raleigh, N. C.

To the Fields

Rev. and Mrs. Waldo Schindler left New York by plane on November 6 to return to the Gabon for their fourth term of service. Their daughters, Mary and Margaret, are remaining in the States to complete their education. Mr. Schindler is to be the director of our Bible school in Bongolo.

Marriages

On August 30 Miss Elaine Root, Beefhide Gospel Mission worker for more than five years, was united in marriage to Mr. Emmett Cleveland Dean at Jenkins, Ky. Mr. Dean is the director for Youth for Christ in Norfolk County, Va.

Miss Elsie Auringer was united in marriage to Mr. Frederick J. Filsinger on October 12 in Cape May, N. J. Miss Auringer has been director of Christian education in the Alliance church in Cranford, N. J.

With the Lord

Mrs. C. F. Yeager, of Mineral Wells, Tex., recently went to be with the Lord at the age of eighty-four. She has been a long-time subscriber to THE ALLIANCE WEEKLY and attended the camp at Arlington, Tex., for many years.

Mr. H. H. Goertzen, of Abbotsford,

Rev. and Mrs. Waldo Schindler
Gabon, Africa



B. C., Canada, went to be with the Lord on October 8 after being in ill health for some time. He was seventy-four years of age. He and his wife, the former Mrs. Anna Schmidt, were active members in the work of the Alliance Tabernacle in Abbotsford, and were intensely interested in Alliance missions. Mrs. Gordon Chapman, missionary to Indonesia, is a step-daughter.

Indiana Women Meet at Majenica

The women's missionary prayer bands of the Indiana Alliance churches met in Majenica on October 3 at the First Christian Church for their second annual rally of prayer fellowship and inspiration. Fourteen churches were represented by sixty-eight delegates.

The morning session was largely devoted to worship and prayer, precious for its liberty in the Spirit. Mrs. John Bucher, of Chile, South America, gave portions from the Word pertaining to obedience and sacrifice.

New Fort Myers Church Dedicated

On Sunday, September 8, the congregation of the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church of Fort Myers, Fla., held special dedication services for their new church. The Sunday school attendance that day reached 200 and in the morning worship service, conducted by the pastor, Rev. Jasper Smoak, several infants were dedicated, new members were received and the Communion service observed. This service was followed by dinner on the grounds for friends and members.

A musical program preceded the three o'clock afternoon dedication service when the message was brought by Rev. T. G. Mangham, Sr., District Superintendent. Others who participated in the service were Revs. Harold Mangham, Grady Mangham, John Rooks, Nathan Penland, John Swanson, and Messrs. Smoak, Arnold and David Frazier.

The evening service was a mission-

ary rally, with Rev. and Mrs. T. Grady Mangham, of the Tribes of Viet Nam as the speakers. Following this was baptismal service.

This work began in 1933 as the result of a series of evangelistic meetings held by Rev. and Mrs. W. C. Barden and Rev. and Mrs. John Swanson in a large tent. After the campaign Mr. Swanson remained to be the first pastor, the group at first meeting in theater.

On Labor Day, 1937, the old church was dedicated at a state young people's rally. The property had been donated by Rev. David C. Butcher. In 1954 the new property was purchased and on September 25, 1955, ground breaking service was held. Members of the congregation contributed much of the labor for the new building which includes an auditorium seating 400 persons and a Sunday school unit which will adequately serve 300 pupils. The baptistry mural was painted by a high school student, Galt Bennett. The estimated value of the property, building and furnishings, \$100,000 and the indebtedness is only \$18,000. Pastors who have served the church are Revs. John Swanson, C. W. Wallace, Gene McGee, C. David Mangham, Charles Kegerize, David Cummings, and Mr. Smoak, who came to Fort Myers in 1952.

Savannah Area Women Meet

The women's missionary prayer fellowship of the Savannah (Ga.) area met on October 24 in Savannah, and two missionaries from the Savannah church, Miss Betty Gattis, of Thailand, and Miss Nelle Gibson, TEAM missionary in India, spoke. At the close of the morning message given by Miss Gattis on the theme, "I will not give unto the Lord that which cost me nothing," there was a spontaneous moving of the Spirit of God in confession and prayer. Mrs. R. Mills Gray is leader of this area fellowship.

The Christian and Missionary Alliance Church, Fort Myers, Fla.



Sunday

READING—1 Peter 2:1-10.

TEXT—"Unto you therefore which believe is the preciousness (verse 7, marg.)."

He [Jesus] is called in the previous passage the precious stone of God's election. Now His preciousness passes over to you who believe. His merits are imparted to you, and His rights and glories become yours also. And thus we also, as lively [living] stones" are built up into Him and become as precious as He. Just as, when the iron touches the magnet it becomes partaker of its magnetism and in turn a magnet, so the soul that is united to Christ partakes with Him of His divine purity and power and is no longer earthly and common but precious and divine. Peter is undoubtedly referring to the interview between him and his Master when he was first called. "Thou art Simon the son of Jona," the Lord said. That is, you are a piece of earthly clay. But "thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone." That is, your nature shall be transformed by contact with Me, until you shall become a part of the living Rock, "Peter."—A. B. SIMPSON.

Pray for The Island World; Eastern, South Pacific Districts, Mexico.

Monday

READING—Romans 13.

TEXT—"Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ" (verse 14).

As "the things that are made" are a witness to all men concerning Him who made them; and as the Incarnate Son is the express and visible Image of the invisible and inaccessible Father, so all those who have put on Christ in their regeneration are images, illustrations and similitudes of Christ to those who have not otherwise seen Him. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father," said His express Image. And if we were all that we ought to be we could say the same—"He that hath seen us hath seen our Saviour." For every believer is in his own measure a visible image of his invisible Lord. "Ye are the light of the world."—ALEXANDER WHYTE.

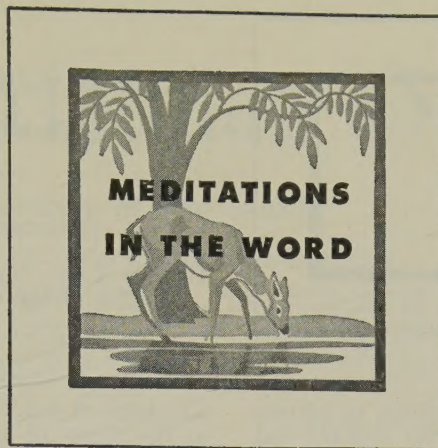
Pray for India; Western Pennsylvania District, Puerto Rico, Jewish Work.

Tuesday

READING—Hebrews 10:26-39.

TEXT—"Ye . . . took joyfully the spoiling of your goods" (verse 34).

God's bairns take well with spoiling of their goods, knowing in themselves that they have in heaven a better and an enduring substance. . . . That day that the earth and the works therein shall be burned with fire (2 Pet. 3:10), our hidden hope and your life shall appear. . . . Since ye have not now many years to your endless eternity, and know not how soon . . . the Son of Man will be seen in the clouds of heaven, what better and wiser course



Compiled by EDITH M. BEYERLE

can ye take than to think that your one foot is here and your other foot in the life to come, and to leave off loving, despairing or grieving for the wants that shall be made up when your Lord and ye shall meet, and when ye shall give in your bill that day of all your wants here? If your losses be made not up, ye have place to challenge the Almighty; but it shall not be so.—SAMUEL RUTHERFORD.

Pray for Africa, Western, Western Canadian, Southeastern Districts.

Wednesday

READING—Hebrews 13:1-9.

TEXT—"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (verse 8).

Oh, how sweet the glorious message,
Simple faith may claim;
Yesterday, today, forever,
Jesus is the same.

Still He loves to save the sinful,
Heal the sick and lame;
Cheer the mourner, still the tempest;
Glory to His name!

Oft on earth He healed the sufferer,
By His mighty hand;
Still our sicknesses and sorrows,
Go at His command.
He who gave His healing virtue,
To a woman's touch;
To the faith that claims His fullness,
Still will give as much.

—A. B. SIMPSON.

Pray for Indo-China, Thailand; North-eastern, Eastern and Central Canadian Districts.

Thursday

READING—Psalm 100.

TEXT—"Be thankful unto him, and bless his name" (verse 4).

A president of my board of trustees had a fine life philosophy: "It might be worse." No matter how large the deficit, how leaky the roof, how lax the members, how late the "late-comers," how lazy the janitor, how lean the sermon, with him it was always "It might be worse." For some years Mrs. William Jennings Bryan was a member of my congregation. Hers was a poor arthritic, twisted, tortured body. But how she radiated sunshine! She could

think of a hundred things any day for which to be thankful. "Every good gift . . . is from above." "Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!" Thanksgiving! What a strange day. It celebrates no victorious battle, no fall of Bastille, no bank or business holiday, no birth of any great man or land or year. It is the one anniversary that celebrates no event save the greatest event of all—thanksgiving to God.—ELMER E. HELMS.

Pray for South America; Southwestern, Pacific Northwest Districts.

Friday

READING—2 Kings 1:3-16.

TEXT—"Be not afraid" (verse 15).

"Self-preservation is the first law of life" and man, as well as every other creature, will resort to any means to observe that law. Elijah was no exception. The most effective means at hand was fire, and he used it, to the destruction of 102 men. Elijah's procedure, however, changed with the change of authority. The king's word meant nothing to him, but when he heard from heaven it was another matter entirely. He had been accustomed to obeying God regardless of consequences. God, he knew, was not a capricious God who could be charged with haphazard behavior. He worked according to plan and knew exactly what He was doing. Ahaziah was wicked, but when God told Elijah to be done with fears, Elijah's courage returned and he met the king without apology. His life was preserved by the God of might.—PAMELL.

Pray for China, Hong Kong; North-western, New England Districts.

Saturday

READING—2 Corinthians 11:1-15.

TEXT—"Satan . . . an angel of light" (verse 14).

Satan does not march his victim up to face perdition point-blank. He leads him to it by easy stages and through a labyrinth that shows no danger. Round and round go those circling currents of the Northern Sea that swallow the ship; and by the same winding coil goes the spiritual decline that ends in spiritual death. . . . Satan never plays a bold game. He wins by not showing his worst at first, by concealing his tricks, transformed into an angel of light. It takes a great deal of effort to put us thoroughly on our guard against his wiles; but when it is done, it is worth the pains. Tempting men imitate their great leader and prototype. They never go directly and openly to their object. If they would bend you from your integrity, they will flatter your self-respect by holding out to you a moral inducement.—F. D. HUNTINGTON.

Pray for Israel, Jordan, Syria; Central, South Atlantic Districts.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON—DECEMBER 8, 1957

What Christ Means to the Christian

Philippians 3:4-14, 20, 21

DEVOTIONAL READING—Ephesians 3:14-21

GOLDEN TEXT—*"And I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."*

—PHILIPPIANS 3:8.

THE TEACHER

BACKGROUND AND LESSON ORIENTATION

Most "great passages" of the Bible were written to correct errors or to solve problems (1 Cor. 13, 15; Phil. 2:5-11) and this lesson is no exception. Paul is writing to warn the Philippians against a subversive element within the church. This trouble had its beginning in the Gentile church at Antioch of Syria. At the Council of Jerusalem it brought a resounding victory against sterile Judaism. The defeated element did not give up the battle. Although the decree of the church declared them wrong they dogged Paul's steps and were ultimately responsible for his arrest. The contaminating effect of Judaism called forth two of Paul's most important works—Galatians and Romans. This was the heaven of the Pharisees against which Christ had warned His own. Paul issued the same warning.

SIMPLIFIED OUTLINE

1. *Grounds for Fleshly Confidence*—Philippians 3:4-6.
2. *Motive for Spiritual Aspiration*—Philippians 3:7-14.
3. *Basis for Ethical Behavior*—Philippians 3:20, 21.

KEY WORD ANALYSIS

(1) "Count"—*hegoumai* (v. 8), meaning an estimation on the basis of evidence. Paul had faced the facts of divine revelation in his radical repudiation of the past. He chose the way of suffering on a sound appraisal of the facts. For a man to look upon all human achievement as refuse when he had achieved so much must have been

the result of serious consideration.

(2) "Suffered"—*edsemiiothen* (v. 8), actually a business term referring to a defrauding or forfeiture of some great gain. The prospect of that which he was to gain in Jesus Christ caused Paul to forfeit all of the worldly and fleshly gain he had made in Judaism. He was exchanging things for a Person, Saviour.

COMMENTARY ON THE PRINTED TEXT

1. *Grounds for Fleshly Confidence* (Phil. 3:4-6).

To the Jew the major achievement of life was the advancement of his religion and himself in that religion. This was basically of the flesh. The flesh called for severe treatment in Christianity—crucifixion. Human achievement had to yield to the will of God in Christ. In every sphere of human ambition this Jew had gone beyond his brethren—circumcision, tribal loyalty, law, zeal, righteousness. These things had been to him a matter of fierce pride. In Christ he had seen them all fade into insignificance.

2. *Motive for Spiritual Aspiration* (Phil. 3:7-14).

Misguided Judaism had cherished the very things that God had decreed for death at the cross. It was a total loss in the sphere of spiritual verities. This testimony was pressed from a heart which had been radically converted and transformed in spirit and theology. To make the Person of Christ a life quest called for an inward revolution

which can only be accounted for by a spiritual revolution. The conversion of Paul is still one thing that no liberal has adequately explained away. The knowledge which Paul had gained of Jesus of Nazareth included His absolute Lordship. Now in Christ (the key expression of Pauline theology) he had renounced all self-activity and was trusting only in the righteousness of Christ. The consuming motive for his spiritual aspiration in life was to know this Person.

Although sufferings usually precede resurrection, they also follow it, as Paul learned. This resurrection life in Christ had led him into a fellowship of suffering which gave him a union with the Son of God that burned in his heart. Although there is only one way to attain unto the resurrection—the regenerating power of Christ—Paul did not want to attain unto it with anything undone which would put a blight upon his service for Christ. He wanted to lay hold upon the very thing for which God had arrested him at Damascus. God's purpose in him was

to be treasured at any price. His mind and heart now had a single purpose. The past could never spoil his present zeal nor cloud his future hope. Every nerve and fiber of his being was now pressed into the battle to win. The calling of God had his undivided heart.

3. *Basis for Ethical Behavior* (Phil. 3:20, 21).

On the basis of these principles Paul lived in the heavenlies. This was the basis for A. B. Simpson's "Living in the Glory." A few men discover the secret and live by it. The rest of us grope in the misty flats of life. The man who lives with an upward gaze will not miss the coming of the King. Paul was being made conformable to Christ's death, but at the coming of Christ he will be changed into the likeness of his Lord.

Paul's doctrine of the body called for one thing—crucifixion; it culminated in resurrection. This implied submission (1 Cor. 9:27). The activity of God is directed toward the defeat of all enemies. The resurrection is His crowning act.

HELPFUL HINTS FOR LESSON PREPARATION

Adopting the imagery used here seems best in interpreting the language. Paul used the figure of the race. It is interesting to see the reference to the sports world Paul made.

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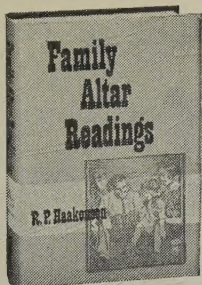
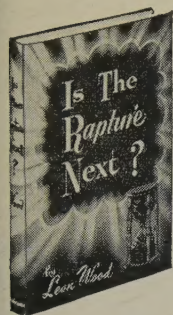
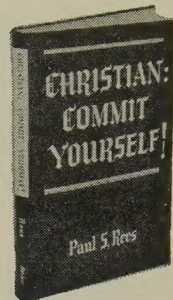
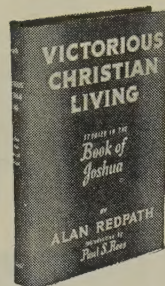
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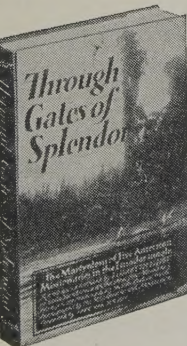
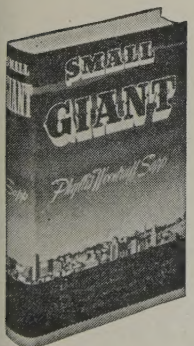


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BAMBARA, the trade language in much of French West Africa, has been a great help in preaching the gospel to new tribes. But the Senoufo churches in the French Soudan are beginning to realize that the Word of God in their own language has a richness and a personal appeal they had not suspected.

Until recently they have depended almost entirely for leadership upon workers from other tribes. As a result they have been accustomed to associating the message of salvation with the sound of a strange tongue. But now a healthy transition is under way. The Lord is raising up workers from among the Senoufos themselves. They soon will take the place of the teachers from other tribes who have been serving them.

The effect this will have was foreshadowed in an incident several months ago. Three young men brought a message in song in a Sunday morning service at Farakala. They are all students in the French school and were on vacation at the time. Having translated the song into Senoufo they sang with great enthusiasm. As the words rang out, "Oh say, my brother, it's the truth, Jesus Christ has risen for us," people in the congregation smiled broadly and their faces reflected genuine enjoyment to hear Christian songs in their own language.

At the conclusion of the song the gray-haired evangelist, Tyedian, deeply moved, summoned the young men to stand in front of him. Slowly he placed his gnarled old hands on the shoulders of each one, invoking the blessing of God upon them. He said, "As I am laying my hands upon you, so I want God to lay His hands upon each of you to make you witnesses for Him among our people." Then he spoke of the deep satisfaction in his heart that younger men are being prepared to take the place of older workers like himself.

Simeon, a Bible school student, then spoke, urging his people to arouse themselves as a tribal church to fulfill the calling of the Lord. In response to his appeal many men, young and old, consecrated themselves to the service of the Lord.

Let us keep pace in prayer with these developments on the fields.



A Senoufo tribesman

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